

GENERAL NOTES.

The Black-capped Petrel (*Estrelata hasitata*) on the Ohio River at Cincinnati.—A specimen of this oceanic bird was noticed yesterday (Oct. 5, 1898) on the river at the east end of Cincinnati by two young men who approached it in a boat, close enough to hit it with an oar. It was brought alive to the Museum of Natural History. Its skin will be preserved in the museum. It proved to be an adult female.

A young male of the same species was taken the same evening on one of the bridges connecting Cincinnati with the Kentucky shore. It was seen fluttering about the electric lamp, and finally struck the glass globe and fell down on the bridge where it was picked up by the bridge watchman. The specimen was brought to the Zoölogical Gardens in Cincinnati where it lived one day and was then given to Mr. Charles Dury, in whose collection the skin will be preserved. Mr. Dury, who skinned both birds, tells me they were extremely emaciated and their digestive canals contained nothing but a little watery fluid.

A few days after the capture of these two specimens at Cincinnati my attention was called to a notice in a Kentucky paper about an "arctic gull" captured by Captain W. L. Thomas of the ferry boat at Augusta, Ky. I at once wrote to Captain Thomas for more information. He very kindly sent me the skin of the bird together with the following notes: "The bird was discovered and caught near my boat, last Tuesday a week ago (Oct. 4) just at daybreak, exhausted; for a few days he showed fight and appeared to wander all after night... I kept him alive for ten days by forcing small minnows down his throat... The specimen I would call a Fulmar." Captain Thomas's identification proved correct. The bird is the Black-capped Petrel, and was the third specimen of its kind brought by the same gale to the Ohio River between Ohio and Kentucky. — JOSHUA LINDAHL, *Cincinnati, O.*

The Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) in Ohio.—On Nov. 16, 1898, a fine young specimen of this species, which had been shot the day before on the banks of the Scioto River, was brought to me. This is, as far as I know, the only time this species is recorded from the fall in Ohio. The phase of plumage is an interesting one; the bird is just beginning to change from the plumage of the young into that of the old bird. The age of this bird, and also the date on which it was taken, settle the question whether this species breeds in Ohio or not, beyond all doubt in the affirmative. The bird is now in my collection. — W. F. HENNINGER, *Waverly, Ohio.*

The Corn Crake in Nova Scotia.—During his visit to this city recently I had the pleasure of exhibiting to Mr. Frank M. Chapman a case of birds

containing specimens which I have collected and mounted in years gone by and among which he recognized a specimen of the Corn Crake (*Crex crex*) which I had inadvertently identified as another species.

As regards the history of this bird, I may briefly mention that nearly a quarter of a century ago, in the month of October, while Snipe shooting in a boggy, swampy situation, my dog flushed the strange bird which, flying steadily, was readily brought down, and its like has never since been seen in this vicinity.—JAMES MCKINLAY, *Pictou, N. S.*

The Stilt Sandpiper in Maryland.—As records of *Microfalama himantopus* are rather scarce along the Atlantic coast; and as there is but one record for Maryland, the often quoted Patuxent River bird taken by Mr. H. W. Henshaw on Sept. 8, 1885, the following may be of interest. On Sept. 9, while shooting Reedbirds on Gunpowder Marsh, Baltimore Co., three Sandpipers came along, were whistled down and all three shot. They proved to be Stilt Sandpipers. Two were badly cut up but the third formed a good skin and is now in my collection. On the same day another bird, in company with two Ring Plovers (*Egialitis semipalmata*) was watched for over an hour, through a field glass, but its actions were only those of any Sandpiper. It was on mud where there is usually a small pond in the marsh on Graces Quarter Ducking Shore, a point about five miles from where the others were shot and near the mouth of Gunpowder River, both points being fifteen miles in an air line from the centre of Baltimore city. Being on private property this last bird was not shot. It, however, came within fifteen feet of me and at no time was over one hundred and fifty feet away during the hour I watched it.—F. C. KIRKWOOD, *Baltimore, Md.*

The Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) in Minnesota.—On May 27, 1889, (see O. & O., Vol. XIV, p. 168) my friend, Mr. Geo. G. Cantwell, secured what he thought the first specimens (five birds) of this species for the State, in Lac Qui Parle Co., but in the same journal (see O. & O., Vol. XV, p. 16) I recorded the capture of a male on the shore of Lake Minnetonka, at Excelsior, on May 24, 1888.

On May 29, 1891, at Madison, Minn., a fine adult male was brought to me which was found dead near the railroad with part of the left wing missing, caused, no doubt, by the bird flying against the telegraph wire.

While at Mankato, Minn., on Nov. 1, 1898, I was permitted, through the kindness of my friend, Prof. U. S. Cox, in charge of the Department of Biology and Geology of the Mankato State Normal School, to examine the collection of the school. I found there a mounted specimen of an adult Turnstone but, unfortunately, without any data whatever. Upon inquiry I learned that the specimen had been brought, together with a small collection of mounted birds collected near the city, by Mr. D. L. Rose. Mr. Rose informed me that he collected the specimen about 1875 near the city of